

Remarks

All claims in the application were indicated to be allowed in a Notice of Allowance dated February 18, 2005.

In lieu of payment of the issue fee, applicants submit contemporaneously herewith an Information Disclosure Statement to make additional references of record for consideration by the Examiner in the present application. Applicants further present amendments as to certain of the claims, cancel certain dependent claims without prejudice or disclaimer, and add new dependent claims 171-184. Applicants expressly reserve the right to pursue claims different and/or broader in scope than the pending claims herein in a related application (*e.g.*, a continuation).

Applicants believe that all claims in the application are allowable in that they recite combinations of elements not shown or suggested in the prior art of record.

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, applicants believe all of the claims of the present application to be in condition for allowance and respectfully request reconsideration and passage to allowance of the application, and the rendering of a second Notice of Allowance.

If the Examiner believes that contact with applicants' attorney would be advantageous toward the disposition of this case, the Examiner is herein requested to call applicants' representative at the phone number listed below.

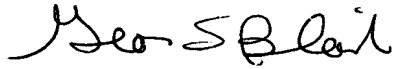
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0289.

U. S. Patent Application No. 09/766,922
Amendment Dated May 18, 2005
Reply to Notices of Allowance Dated February 18, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

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